

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of a tumor which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of active dendritic cells (DC) that are tumor-specific and secrete IL12, said tumor-specific IL12 secreting DC being prepared by a process comprising:
  - (a) collecting DC or DC precursor cells from a suitable source to obtain a DC culture;
  - (b) loading the DC of said DC culture with a tumor specific antigen; and
  - (c) exposing said DC culture to a concentration of LPS and a concentration of IFN- $\gamma$  effective to trigger the DC of said DC culture to secrete IL12 to thereby obtain said tumor specific and IL12 secreting DC wherein said exposure to LPS and IFN-  $\gamma$  occurs over a period of ~~1-10~~2-6 hours.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said treatment is performed after bone marrow transplantation.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said tumor is an advanced malignancy.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said DC are collected from the patient having said tumor or from a bone marrow donor.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the DCs have been loaded with an antigen from a tumor cell from said patient having said tumor.
6. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 5, wherein the DC are additionally charged with a tracer antigen.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 6, wherein said tracer antigen is keyhole limpet hemocyanine (KLH).

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 7, wherein the DCs are additionally charged with an adjuvant, especially with tetanus toxoid.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the DC have been generated in vitro from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs).
10. – 11. **(Cancelled)**
12. **(Withdrawn)** A method for triggering IL-12 release from dendritic cells (DCs) which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of a combination of LPS, IFN- $\gamma$  and a tumor antigen.
13. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12, wherein the DCs have been loaded with an antigen from a tumor cell from a patient having said tumor.
14. **(Cancelled)**
15. **(Cancelled)**
16. **(Cancelled)**
17. **(Cancelled)**
18. **(Cancelled)**
19. **(Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of a tumor which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of active dendritic cells (DC) that are tumor-specific and secrete IL12, said tumor-specific, IL12 secreting DC being prepared by a process consisting essentially of:

- (a) collecting DC or DC precursor cells from a suitable source to obtain a DC culture;
- (b) loading the DC of said DC culture with a tumor specific antigen; and
- (c) exposing said DC culture to a concentration of LPS and a concentration of IFN- $\gamma$  effective to trigger the DC of said DC culture to secrete IL12 to thereby obtain said tumor specific and IL12 secreting DC wherein said exposure to LPS and IFN-  $\gamma$  occurs over a period of ~~1-102~~2-6 hours.

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method for the treatment of a tumor consisting essentially of administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of active dendritic cells (DC),[[ ,]] and wherein said active DC are prepared by a process consisting essentially of:

- (a) collecting DC or DC precursor cells from a suitable source to obtain a DC culture;
  - (b) loading the DC of said DC culture with a tumor specific antigen; and
- exposing said DC culture to a concentration of LPS and a concentration of IFN- $\gamma$  effective to trigger the DC of said DC culture to secrete IL12 and thereby obtain said active DC wherein said exposure to LPS and IFN-  $\gamma$  occurs over a period of ~~1-102~~2-6 hours.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein said active DCs are administered or frozen after exposure to LPS and IFN- $\gamma$ .

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein said active DCs are exposed to LPS and IFN-  $\gamma$  for a period of 2 hours.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein said active DCs are exposed to LPS and IFN-  $\gamma$  for a period of 6 hours.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Cancelled)**